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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 114 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Austria, Belarus, Chile, France, Poland and Senegal: draft resolution

Human rights and scientific and technological progress

The General Assembly,

Noting that scientific and technological progress is one of the decisive factors in the development of human society,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 3/

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 45/95 of 14 December 1990 adopting "Guidelines for the regulation of computerized personnel data files" and its resolution 46/119 adopting the principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care,

Welcoming with satisfaction resolution 1993/91 of 10 March 1993 of the Human Rights Commission entitled "Human rights and bioethics", as well as its

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XX), annex.

3/ Resolution 2541 (XXIV).

decision 1993/113 of 10 March 1993 entitled "Question of the follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal files",

Congratulating relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 4/

Aware that everyone had the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

Reaffirming the need to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person in the conditions of scientific and technological progress,

Noting that certain advances, notably in the biomedical and life sciences as well as in information technology, may have potentially adverse consequences for the integrity, dignity and human rights of the individual,

Considering also that the human being is in the centre of social and economic development,

Conscious that modern science and technology give the possibility to create material conditions for the prosperity of society and for the thorough development of the human person,

Recognizing the need for international cooperation so that all mankind can benefit the achievements of scientific and technological progress and to ensure their use in favour of economic and social progress for all,

Convinced of the need to develop life science ethics both nationally and internationally,

1. Calls upon all Member States to ensure that the achievements of scientific and technological progress and the intellectual potential of mankind are used for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Also calls upon Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of science and technology are used only for the benefit of the human being and do not lead to the disturbance of the ecological environment;

3. Emphasizes that scientific knowledge and technology in health, education, housing and other social spheres should be readily available to the populations as the heritage of humanity;

4. Requests the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to inform the Secretary-General of the activities and programmes carried out to ensure development life and technical sciences respectful of human rights, in order to contribute the reports of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 1993/91 and decision 1993/113 of the Human Rights Commission;

4/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

5. Decides to consider the question of human rights and scientific and technological progress at its fiftieth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".